

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The management of BCCL has issued notices to the families from time to time residing in the endangered localities already affected/likely to be affected by underground fire and gas leakage, about the imminent threat to their lives and property and need to vacate these areas. In this regard the district authorities have also been kept apprised.

(b) In spite of the best efforts of BCCL, the fires could not be controlled fully due to enormity of the problem.

(c) and (d) The various techniques adopted by BCCL to extinguish/control fire are blanketing, surface sealing, sand flushing, inert gas injection, trenching, water pooling etc. The spreading of fire has been retarded but not to the desired extent.

Scarcity of potable water in the country

†*159. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale scarcity of potable water is being felt in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take effective steps to make adequate arrangement of potable water;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the people of Gujarat will also be benefitted from it; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) At present, no such large scale scarcity of potable water has been reported by the State Governments. However, reports have been received from Karnataka and Maharashtra about deficient rainfall during the current monsoon and consequent scarcity of drinking water in some parts of these States.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[1st August 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Central teams have been deputed to visit these States to study the situation. Recently, a report regarding scarcity of drinking water has also been received from the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) So far as rural drinking water supply is concerned, it is a State subject. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance on matching basis under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Funds are also provided to the States under the Rural Drinking Water Component of the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). Powers have been delegated to the State Governments to plan, approve and implement projects under ARWSP and PMGY—Rural Drinking Water Supply.

In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments in providing water in small towns having population less than 20,000, Government of India is implementing Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme under which funds are provided by the Centre to the State Governments on a 50:50 matching basis.

States themselves plan and implement schemes to meet the drinking water scarcity. However, to review the overall drought situation and coordinate the mitigation efforts, Government of India has constituted a Management Group under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary. Further, a Group of Ministers (GoM) under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister has also been functioning to review and monitor the drought mitigation efforts.

After the monsoon season of last year (2000), scarcity of drinking water due to deficient rainfall was reported from 8 States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. In view of the scarcity of drinking water then prevailing in rural areas of these States on account of drought, the priorities fixed in the Guidelines had been relaxed up to June 30, 2001 by the Government of India to the extent that the funds under ARWSP and PMGY—Rural Drinking Water could also be utilised for activities relating to repair, rejuvenation, renovation, restoration

and replacement of existing rural drinking water systems in areas affected by scarcity of drinking water in these 8 States, including Gujarat.

In case of Gujarat, during the year 2000-2001 under ARWSP (including ARWSP-DDP), Rs. 74.85 crores were allocated to the State and keeping in view the drought situation prevailed in the State, the entire allocation of Rs. 74.85 crores was released by relaxing the conditions laid down for release of funds. In the wake of the earthquake and drought in the State, an additional Rs. 100.00 crores was provided to the State under ARWSP for rural drinking water supply.

Modernisation of NTC Mills in Gujarat

*160. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The total capital expenditure incurred on modernisation of NTC mills in Gujarat, till date;

(b) the strategy planned to make the sick units viable there; and

(c) the policy of Government to protect the interest of workers in these units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) An amount of Rs. 40.37 crores has been spent on modernization of NTC mills in Gujarat till date.

(b) The Government has approved an approach consisting of revival of all revivable NTC mills and closure of its non-revivable mills. The resources for the same are proposed to be generated through sale of surplus land and assets. This approach has been filed before the BIFR. Textile Research Associations have examined the viability of the mills and submitted their report to the Operating Agency, IDBI. The IDBI is formulating a Draft Revival Scheme on the basis of which a final decision will be taken by the BIFR.

(c) The Government's policy is to revive maximum number of revivable mills. In such cases where a mill is not revivable, workers